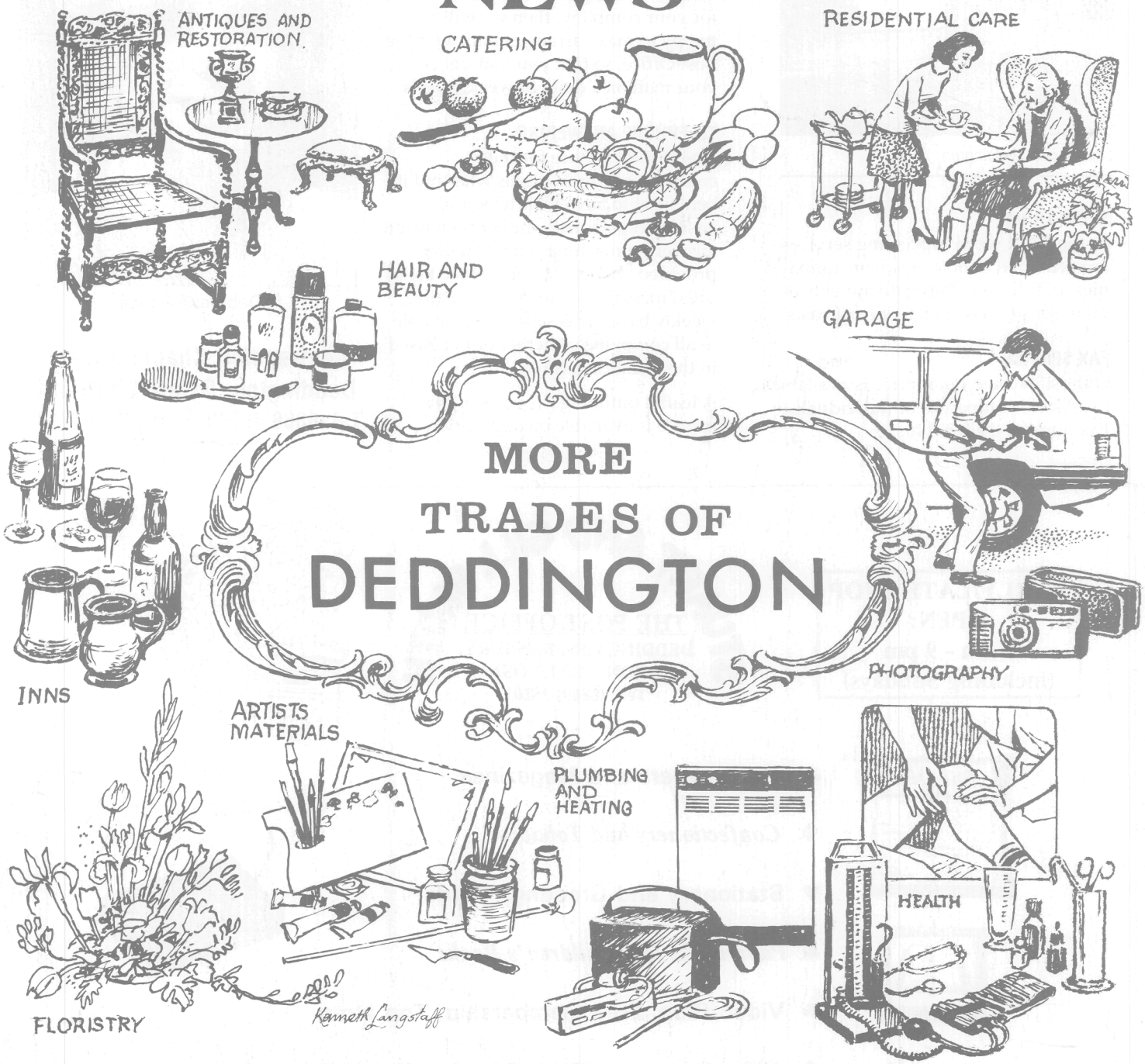
THE DEDDINGTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 1993



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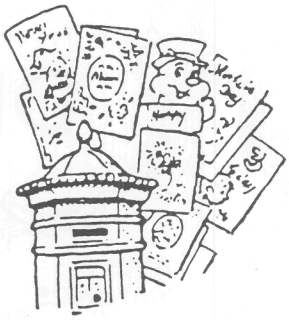

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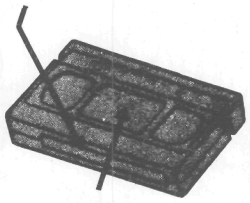

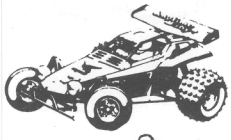

THE DEDDINGTON NEWS

February 1993

Editors	Angela and Norman Stone, The Stone House, Market Place	38019
Treasurer & Clubs Editor	Marianne Elsley, The Old House, Philcote Street	38251
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Collating	Alison Brice and her team	38950
Distribution	The children of Deddington School and friends	38019
Cover	Ken Langstaff	

EDITORIAL

We welcome our readers back after the January break, and wish you all happiness and prosperity in 1993 and beyond.

This is our last year as editors of *The News*. We have done the job since the beginning of 1987 and enjoyed it hugely - though not invariably! But enough is enough. The time has come for new editors with fresh ideas and fresh enthusiasms.

The magazine need not, of course, be the same in future as it is now - different format, perhaps, different content, different style. It could be run differently - maybe a group of section editors under a managing editor who needn't necessarily be a writer. We will do all we can to ensure a smooth handover, with time for our successors to learn the ropes, if they need to.

But please make no mistake, this really is our last year and if there is no takeover by the Christmas issue, there will be no *Deddington News* in 1994. So now is the time to step forward. We are waiting to hear from you - please.

Angela and Norman Stone

FEBRUARY DIARY

(More church services on pages 5 and 6)

Tue 9	WI: Talk on Oxfordshire's Part in the Civil War, Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm
Th 11	Confirmation Service, Barford St Michael Church, 7.30pm (page 5)
Sat 13	British Legion: *Hi-Way*
Wed 17	U3A: A Vicar of Deddington in the 19th Century - Mr Stevenson
Wed 17	Parish Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7.30pm **(PLEASE NOTE DATE)**
Tue 23	COPY DATE FOR MARCH DEDDINGTON NEWS
Wed 24	Ash Wednesday. Eucharist, Parish Church, 8pm (page 5)
Fri 26	Cherwell Draft Local Plan. Last day for comments to CDC (page 8)

MARCH DIARY

Wed 3	U3A: Education in our Prisons - Rod Turner
Th 4	Talk by Mary Spiller on small gardens. Town Hall, 7.45pm £2 (page 12)
Th 4	British Legion Branch & Club Annual General Meeting, 8pm.
Sat 6	DEDDINGTON NEWS PUBLICATION DAY
Sat 13	British Legion: *Dragon Fly*
Wed 17	U3A: Victim Support - John Neild
Fri 19	Deddington PTA Race Night at the School, 8pm (page 8)
Sat 20	British Legion: Race Night in aid of Deddington Cricket Club
Sun 21	Mothering Sunday
Tue 23	COPY DATE FOR APRIL DEDDINGTON NEWS
Sat 27	British Legion: *Jefferson Kane*
Wed 31	U3A: Tiptoe through the Tulips - Sheila Wood

ORGANISATION SECRETARIES - PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR DATES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CLASHING WITH OTHERS.

/diary continued on page 14...

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

EDITORS' NOTE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 13 JANUARY 1993

DR BILL MACE The Council noted with deep regret the death of Dr Bill Mace, a former Chairman. A memorial service will be held in the Parish Church on 30 January. [THE CLERK LATER CONFIRMED THAT THREE SEPARATE GROUPS, OF 10 PARISHIONERS, EACH HAVE CALLED FOR AN ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS ELECTION WILL BE DECIDED AND ANNOUNCED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL - EDS]
CLLR O'BRIEN should, strictly speaking, be asked to stand down because of his absence record. PC will waive the rule because of the exceptional circumstances, and the importance of his work as Chairman of the Windmill Committee.
TOWN HALL PROJECT. Feasibility study did not take account of the £26,000 limit allocated by PC, and the feoffees will be written to. PC to explore the possibility of buying the freehold of the building for the parish. Meanwhile, under the terms of the present repairing lease, PC is responsible for urgent repairs to roof (gutters, eaves, tiles) and will obtain quotes. CDC to be asked to contribute towards maintenance of this listed building.
WINDMILL DEVELOPMENT Discussing Cllr O'Brien's Report No 2, Cllrs expressed reservations about the cost of the bowling green and associated works. A 20 percent grant may be available if the contract is operational by the end of March 1993. Questions were raised about the possibility of the PC doing the 'soft landscaping' themselves, rather than a contractor; about swapping over the sites of the tennis courts and the proposed multi-use pitch; about the merits or otherwise of selling the tennis courts as building land and repositioning the courts elsewhere; about modifying the Castle Grounds to provide two football pitches (one for Deddington Town Football Club, the other for Barford).
The main decisions taken were that the PC, rather than contractors, should apply for any grants relevant to the Windmill Development, and that local contractors should be encouraged to tender for building works to a contract value of some £100,000. [APPLY IMMEDIATELY TO THE PC CLERK FOR DETAILS - EDS]
For the £353,000 development as a whole, the programme is: «»Planning applied for in Jan 1993 «»Contract drawings completed 12 Feb «»Tender documents out by 26 Feb and returned on 19 March «»Contract work starts 19 April and finishes 19 Oct 1993. The main hall of the Windmill Centre will be closed for six months (April-Sept 1993) and the rest of the building for three months (July-Sept 1993). The Report warned that when the work has been completed, the internal look of the existing building - the 'aesthetic qualities' - will hardly have changed.
PLANNING A new application has been made for permission to develop further land to the north of Earls Lane. Parishioners Richard and Janet Broadbent spoke by invitation and argued that the proposed site had already been turned down under the local Structure Plan; would be of no benefit, and indeed detrimental, to the local community; and tended towards an urban, rather than a rural, environment. Cllrs discussed these and other points; noted that traffic congestion could be a serious problem; that development proposals already approved (Windmill Phase II, Hudson St garages site, Manor Farm, Earls Lane first proposal, Clifton Road and Clifton) added up to more than the total envisaged in the Local Structure Plan; and that it was time to call a halt. On the other hand, Deddington IS a 'Category One' village, with good facilities that might justify further future development. Should this eventually prove to be the case, the proposals under discussion might be quite reasonable. On being put to the vote, PC decided 7-3 that the proposals should be resisted. It was understood that CDC Planning Committee will recommend refusal.
SEE PAGE 8 RE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN - EDS
INVESTMENT OF PARISH FUNDS £1,000,000 at 7 and one sixteenth percent until 26 February; £37,763 at 6 percent on 7 days' notice; £7,860 at 3 and five eighths percent overnight. TOTAL £1,045,623.
CASTLE GROUNDS PC accepted quote of £195 to remove the last of the dead trees.
TRAFFIC CALMING There have been further discussions with OCC after their on-site visit to consider traffic calming measures in Hempton Rd, Chapel Square, Earls Lane, High St, New St and Clifton Rd. A formal response is expected shortly.
ASSOCIATIONS PC agreed to renew membership of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (£15) and join the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (£25).

/continued on page 14

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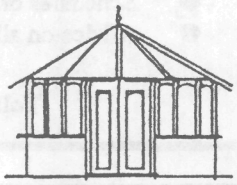

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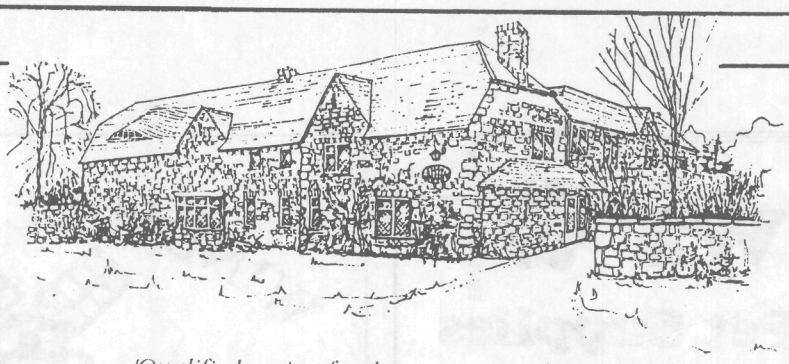

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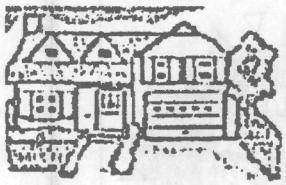

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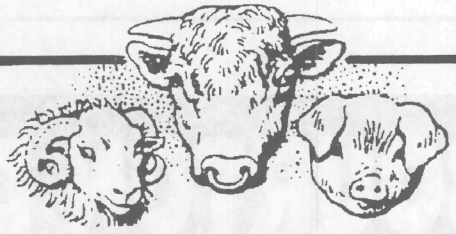

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FROM THE EDITORS' POSTBAG

FROM DIANE WOODMAN, ST THOMAS STREET, DEDDINGTON I wish to thank the many friends who attended my baptism on 3 January, welcoming me into the family church, and in particular our Vicar, Ken, for his help and support. God Bless.

FROM MRS JOYCE HARPER, PHILCOTE STREET, DEDDINGTON
I would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kindness and good wishes and the wonderful staff at the Horton General Hospital during my recent illness.

FROM MRS JO MACE, BULLRING, DEDDINGTON
The family and I were profoundly moved by the sympathy and support of so many people when Bill died, and by the attendance at his memorial service. Thank you all, and for your generous contributions to Arthritis Care and the parish church.

FROM ALEXANDER JAMES SODDY, HUDSON STREET, DEDDINGTON
Thank you very much for giving money to our Yugoslavia appeal round the tree on Xmas Eve. We collected £86, which included donations when Joanne, Richard and I went carol singing earlier, around the village. We think it is a good idea to collect in this way at Xmas for a needy cause. What do you think? Many thanks from all of us and a happy new year.

FROM JOHN BURDON, NEW STREET, DEDDINGTON
REFLECTIONS ON CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE ON CHRISTMAS EVE. My last minute efforts to pass on the job of conductor failed and I was once again waving the baton. An excellent attendance and certainly for me the most enjoyable one I have conducted. I am sure that everyone wishes it to continue *ad infinitum* and I am giving early notice that the time has come for a change.
First, I need a successor as I do feel that there is someone somewhere who would enjoy taking it on, but more importantly there is a strong possibility that I shall not be Deddington next Christmas Eve. Second, the aim has always been to keep it as a very informal gathering, i.e. no bands or piped music. However, the numbers are growing each year (Deddington is growing) and some improvements have to be made, for example (1) the podium (which appeared by kind permission of the Church, I think in 1991) didn't arrive this Christmas. IT IS NOW ESSENTIAL FOR THE CONDUCTOR TO BE ABOVE THE SINGERS; (2) amplification for the conductor is now essential. Note: the above suggestions are as a result of my having sustained a stiff right shoulder and arm and a throat like Bill Clinton's this Christmas Eve.
As far as other 'improvements' are concerned, well, this is up to my successor.
I know that opinions differ on the subject but I feel that, with growing numbers, ideas like having a brass ensemble to accompany the singing should be considered. [SEE BILL DRAKE'S ARTICLE ON PAGE 12 - EDS] Perhaps the Editors of *Deddington News* could ask for suggestions [YES! - EDS]. Long may this happy event continue.

FROM BILL IVINGS, TOWER CAPTAIN, PHILCOTE STREET, DEDDINGTON
Thank you very much all you kind people who invited us into your homes to ring the hand bells during the Christmas festivities. Thank you also to all who gave so generously and for donations received. The grand total for the Belfry Fund is £232.66
I hope you enjoyed hearing the bells Christmas morning and also the four days over the Christmas period [YES! - EDS]. Regretfully we were unable to ring the Old Year Out, and the New Year In, as only four of our ringers were available. Although we are able to ring four hand bells per person, it takes one person to ring each tower bell. In Deddington we are very fortunate in having 8 lovely bells and 12 very loyal ringers but we are still 4 short of the ideal number of 16. If you are interested in learning to ring, or are a ringer of time past, please contact me on 38513. Let us do our best to fulfil the ringing of our beautiful bells at all times.

FROM KEN REEVES, THE VICARAGE, EARLS LANE, DEDDINGTON
Through the courtesy of your columns, I should like to say "thank you" to the gentleman who found a cheque that had been dropped in the road, and then informed the bank. He did not leave his name and address with the bank, so I have been unable to thank him in person.

/more letters on page 4...

POSTBAG continued...

FROM JOHN SCOTT, PHILCOTE STREET, DEDDINGTON
I am glad to report that the congregations of our three churches in Deddington gave £119.17 to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.

FROM GEOFF CAMPBELL, GROVE COURT, DEDDINGTON
May I, through the *Deddington News*, thank the Grove Court residents who have taken the trouble to thank me and support me since I resigned as Chair of the Residents' Committee. I am grateful for the suggestions made, which I have taken on board. I am convinced that 1993 will be an important year for flat dwellers, with the new legislation on leasehold etc. It will be important also to ensure the good communications that have been established are continued. I shall continue to have a benevolent and lively interest in what is going on here.

FROM MRS GWEN CALLOW, WARWICK
Some three years ago, I wrote to you concerning my holiday childhood memories of Deddington in the 1940s, and for a time received copies of *The Deddington News* from my late Uncle, Perce Walker. Recently, I visited Billericay in Essex and was given the October edition by another Uncle, Jim Wilkinson. Having been a widow, I have re-married a former Deddington gentleman, Henry Callow, whose family lived next door to my Uncle Perce up the Hempton Road where I spent my holidays in the 1940s. He has a certificate showing that he won a Cadbury's essay competition in 1937 while attending Deddington School. His prize? - 6 small bars of chocolate! Deddington means such a lot to me!!

FROM ROD MATTHEWS, 9 BRYN COED, RADYR, CARDIFF, CF4 8RH
In the process of tracing my family history, I discovered that some of my ancestors had strong links with Deddington. From approximately 1840 until after 1871 Thomas Boyles, my great great grandfather, was a blacksmith in the village, living over the years at Nos 17, 15 and 14 New St. He married Catherine Theresa Sooley and they had 6 children all born in Deddington, including Charles, my great grandfather, who followed in his father's footsteps as a blacksmith. Charles married Elizabeth Mary Ann Grace in 1863 and eventually moved on to Brackley to start his own business. They had 12 children. 5 of them born in Deddington. In 1881 Charles is listed as having a servant, Sophia Skuce age 16, also from Deddington (11 New Street).
I write in the hope that perhaps amongst your readers there is a local historian who may have more information on the Boyles family, so that I can add more flesh to the bones of my ancestors. Any information, however small, would be gratefully received.
[IF ANY OF OUR READERS CAN HELP, THEY COULD WRITE TO MR MATTHEWS THROUGH US - OR DIRECT, IN WHICH CASE WE'D APPRECIATE A COPY - EDS]

DR BILL MACE 1918-1992

When Bill Mace died, we lost a friend. So did the whole community of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton. Bill believed in the variety and continuity of village life. His regard for the past was expressed through his membership of the Deddington Architectural and Historical Study Group, which he helped found, and his interest in old maps and documents. As a member and past Chairman of the Parish Council, a prime mover in the Village Appraisal and a Friend of the Town Hall, he was involved in the present and future. He encouraged the arts - he belonged to the Playreading Group and supported Deddington Players - and was also a man of science, grappling with the complexities of Chaos Theory and Fractals, long after he had retired. At a late age he learned to use a personal computer and bubble jet printer, while remaining dedicated to the more traditional art of trout fishing.
Bill Mace was wise, far-sighted and gentle. His distinguished career in medicine derived as much from his personal qualities and management skills as from his professional knowledge and experience. Yet there was no side to him and no flannel: what you saw was what you got - except that his laid-back style underplayed his brainpower. A kind, modest, family man, he drove the Age Concern bus for the same reasons that he delivered *The Deddington News* from door to door: because it was something useful that needed to be done, but also because he enjoyed it.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

ST PETER & ST PAUL, DEDDINGTON, AND ST JOHN HEMPTON

PARISH CHURCH - SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sun 7 10.30am Family Service followed by Holy Communion
Wed 10 10am Holy Communion
Sun 14 10.30am Sung Eucharist. Celebrant and Preacher: the Revd Alan Le Grys, Tutor in New Testament studies at Ripon College, Cuddesdon
Wed 17 10am Holy Communion
Sun 21 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Mattins
Wed 24 ASH WEDNESDAY 8pm Eucharist with imposition of ashes for those who wish. NO 10am SERVICE
Fri 26 Midday prayers and meditation
Sun 28 10.30am Sung Eucharist (Special Preacher: William Brierley, a student of Ripon College, Cuddesdon)

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, HEMPTON - SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sun 7 9am Eucharist Sun 28 6pm Sung Evensong (BCP)
Sun 21 9am Eucharist

CONFIRMATION On Thurs 11 February at 7.30pm there will be a service of Confirmation and Holy Communion in Barford St Michael Church. The Bishop of Dorchester will confirm 11 candidates drawn from the parishes of Deddington and The Barfords.
PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND During February the Vicar will lead a party of 26 people, the majority from this parish, to the Holy Land. For some years Deddington Parish has sponsored, through the Bible Lands Society, a little girl called Rasha Bsesu who lives and goes to school in Bethany. We hope to visit her and her school.
CHILDREN'S CHURCH Children are welcome to attend meetings for them in Deddington C of E Primary School, Earls Lane, at 10.30am, on Sunday mornings, except the first Sunday in the month. On first Sundays we hope the children with their parents will attend the 30 minute family service in the Parish Church. Children enjoyed the New Year Party in the Windmill Centre on 9 January.
ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF CHOIR WANTED Sadly Dr P Agg has resigned with effect from Easter. We are very grateful to him for all his work over the past 18 months. The post is advertised. Any person interested is invited to contact the Vicar for further information.
CHOIR OUTING The choir, with some other members of Deddington Church, enjoyed their outing to the pantomime "Mother Goose" at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, on 8 Jan.
DEDDINGTON CAME SECOND! The amount raised by St Peter & St Paul in the sponsored cycle ride for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (over £600) was the second highest in the deanery.
FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms 6 December LOUISE ELIZABETH LINDSAY ROWLAND and HOLLY SPENGLER.
3 January DIANE ELIZABETH WOODMAN (adult).

Funerals 29 December in Oakley Wood Crematorium - DR BENJAMIN (BILL) MACE, aged 74. A true friend of the village and its Church. We shall all miss him very much and we express our sympathy to Jo Mace and family. [SEE ALSO P.4 - EDS].

8 January in the Parish Church - EDWARD ARTHUR WARD, aged 85 years. Eddie was born at West Lynn in Norfolk. He worked as a shepherd in East Anglia and married Sybil in 1934. They had two sons and two daughters. In 1937 Eddie and Sybil moved to Upper Swell in the Cotswolds and later to Adderbury, then Tadmarton and, in 1961, to Deddington. Whilst living in Deddington he continued to work on the land in Barford St John. After retirement he worked at times in the grounds of the Holly Tree Club and at the Holcombe Hotel and helping people with gardening. We express our sympathy to his family.

16 January in the Parish Church - ELIZABETH DOROTHY HEDGES, aged 72 years. Betty was born in Canada. She was employed in London as secretary to Ernest Hedges, whom she eventually married. They had one son. In the war she served in the WAAF and afterwards for a short time ran a decorating business. She lived for 30 years in Beaconsfield, then in the New Forest and in Marcham near Abingdon. For the last few years she had been resident in Featherton House. We extend our sympathy to her son, his wife and family.

KEN REEVES Vicar 38329

continued on page 6

LENT 1993 - ECUMENICAL HOUSE GROUP MEETINGS
Lent will start on Ash Wednesday, 24 February, with a service of Eucharist in the Parish Church at 8pm. The following week House Group meetings will begin. Each group will meet once a week for five weeks. There will be afternoon meetings at 2.30pm on Mondays and Fridays and evening meetings at 7.45pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We shall follow an interesting course "Growing with Vision", which will comprise Bible reading, prayer and discussion. You are welcome to join a group, even if you cannot attend each week. Details of venues and leaders etc. can be obtained by contacting Mrs Viviane Hall (38225), Mrs P Ridd (37144), Pastor Isabel Walton (38024) or the Vicar (38329).

DEDDINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street
A warm welcome awaits you. Sunday School 10.30am. Sunday evening worship 6pm. Fellowship Meeting alternate Tuesdays 2.30pm. Next date 16 February.
Would anyone be willing to clean our church? Approx two hours a week to suit.
Please contact Mrs Joyce Minnear (38529). DON DAVIDSON 47072

DEDDINGTON WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH Chapel Square,
About 3000 years ago a man called Elijah stood on a rock and tried to hear God. First came the mighty power of a hurricane, then there was an earthquake, then a violent fire. But Elijah realized that God was not in these outbursts of nature. Then everything became quiet, and there was a breeze so gentle that it merely caressed one's face. And Elijah found that this was God. In our lives each day we experience hurricanes, earthquakes, violent fires - hurt, pain, suffering, feelings of rejection, things that distress us. Then we come to a time when we can do and feel no more. A time when we come to the end of our own resources and we stop. Stop to know the gentle breeze, the gentle touch of God. Maybe it comes at the end of weeping; or from the hand of a friend; or from an overwhelming sense of peace that is beyond our understanding. Here is God. He cares for you, whoever you are, you are special to Him. **SUNDAYS 10.30am: PREACHERS Feb 7 (Holy Comm), 14, 21 Pastor Walton, 28 John Neale, March 7 Pastor Walton, Holy Comm.** PASTOR ISABEL WALTON 0926 640806

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Congratulations to Rose Edgington on reaching her 91st Birthday. We wish her well. Sadly Mrs Wyton died very suddenly just before Christmas. She had lived in her little cottage up the lane for as long as most of us can remember.
Our Christmas Bazaar was well supported, and we were very pleased to welcome friends from Barford and Deddington. The final total amounted to £290.43. It was hard work, but I think we all enjoyed it.
The Carol Service was also a great success, thanks to those who cleaned so assiduously beforehand and provided the decorations; to the Choir who once more contributed both to the music and to the colour of the scene; and to the purveyors of refreshments. The Church was packed! There were many compliments passed, but does anybody wonder how all this comes about? Who provides all the flowers and the more mundane objects such as Brasso, candles, electric light bulbs and bin bags? I can reveal that all these things are genorously given by a faithful few; there is no fund to draw upon, no paid caretaker. The "Friends" will need every penny they have raised in order to meet the cost of repairs (plus the abominable VAT) whenever these are allowed to proceed. I just hope that the Diocesan Advisory Committee are not going to insist upon expensive cast-iron guttering, which would need frequent repainting. We are advised that there is permanent black aluminium guttering available, in suitable Victorian style. This would be cheaper, lighter, and would require virtually no maintenance. Pray let us get on with the work before prices, and possibly VAT, go up again.
Meanwhile would anyone care to join our rota of cleaners, polishers and flower arrangers? When the Church was threatened with closure, nearly every one in the village expressed a desire to keep it open. If you still feel that this is important, do please come forward; offers of help would be very much appreciated. If you cannot spare the time, how about donating an occasional bunch of flowers, perhaps to mark an anniversary? NAN HARRIS 38039

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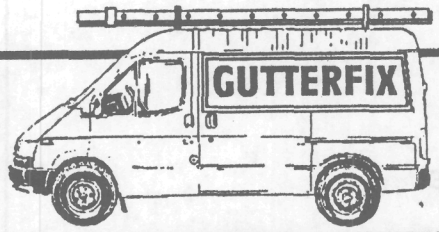

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DEDDINGTON FIRE SERVICE

FIRE CALLS 1992 Having missed the last edition of *The News*, I have to report that between 23 October and 31 December we received 53 calls which were - 4 house fires, 1 narrow boat fire, 2 road traffic accidents, 1 fire in the football pavilion at the Castle Grounds, 1 poultry shed with 400 turkeys inside, 8 chimney fires, 3 calls to houses flooded, 1 car fire, 1 call to tractors on fire in a barn, 4 malicious false alarms, 14 false alarms with good intent, 7 false alarms which were defects on automatic systems and 6 calls to stand by at other stations. This brings the total number of calls in 1992 to 254, which is 15 higher than 1991.
FIRE CALLS 1993 The year has started off very quietly with the station responding to 12 calls - 2 chimney fires, 1 fire in woods at Upper Heyford, 1 stack of tyres at Frenco Services, Banbury, 1 car fire, 1 call to persons trapped in a lift, 4 false alarms with good intent and 2 calls to stand by at other stations.
TRAINING Andrew Hayward has completed 7 months probation and has very successfully completed a one week basic training course at Brigade Training School, Didcot.

ALBERT HUMPHRIES 38943

ALADDIN - a review by Ralph Elsley

How lucky we were in the gloom of mid-January to have the Deddington Players magically transforming the current cold and cheerless scene with their localised version of Aladdin.
The first thing we should remark upon is the large number of people who were involved and who obviously put so much time and effort into producing the show. The set was very satisfying and impressive, and cunningly contrived for exterior and interior effect: it was, moreover, greatly enhanced by the lighting. Such things are achieved only as a result of hours of careful designing and hard work. The special effects, which again call for careful preparation, were as sensational and efficiently managed as anything at Drury Lane.
The costumes and props and striking make-up contributed greatly to the splendour of the occasion and were the result of much ingenuity, skill and patient labour. The village children, playing themselves, gave us the reassuring impression that they too were thoroughly enjoying themselves, and they sang delightfully. Special mention should be made of Elizabeth Plowman as Aladdin. Her speaking and singing voice were quite equal to her ease of movement on stage and her obvious sense of fun. Helen Bond, in the supporting role of Ariadne, proved an excellent foil, and achieved a wonderful personal transformation in the fluttering of an eye-lid. As the Good Fairy, Elizabeth Fenemore sang enchantingly and made a memorable contribution to the proceedings.
It was a great challenge for us to identify the familiar transmogrified in the various exotic visitants from Russia, Ireland, Antarctica and Roald Dahl. Not until the Spacemen removed their helmets could we confidently say who was who, and I am still trying to convince myself that the Drinkers were only pretending.
For Jim Flux, disguise is not such an easy matter, but his rendering of the Genie in the unwieldy shape of a classic pantomime dame was one of the triumphs of the evening. The ensemble playing of Ruth Johnson and Jack Walker as Mr and Mrs Slapcabbage left me with perhaps the most lasting and satisfying memory. Ruth braved the storm of hissing and abuse with wonderfully sustained venom, and Jack coped perfectly with a whole gamut of emotions up to the point of his happy release. They put over their songs to great effect.
The musical accompaniment of Ben and Jan Elvidge greatly helped us to get into the right mood and matched the vocal excellence of the cast.
We were pleased to be given the chance to applaud the writing/directing/stage management team of Molly Neild and Jean Flux. The production was inventive and swift, as only thoroughly rehearsed shows can be, and the script skilfully exploited the hallowed pantomime conventions with an ingenious story-line and couplets generously embroidered with a host of unsparing references to people, places and the long-suffering Parish Council.
We cannot unfortunately name all those who contributed so much. We will conclude with our thanks to them all and the hope that, now the precedent has been set, we shall be able to look forward to the Pantomime as a permanent fixture in the *Deddington News* calendar. [OH YES WE SHALL! - EDS]

SCHOOL NEWS

DEDDINGTON PTA presents *DEDDINGTON DERBY NIGHT* at the School on *FRIDAY 19 MARCH* at 8pm. Enjoy an evening out at our exciting indoor race night. Entrance, race card and Paddock Platter just £3 a ticket, available from Jo Churchyard 38071. Licensed Bar.

SCHOOL POOL Due to new safety rules, we are looking for anyone over 16 who could act as **LIFEGUARD** during after-school and holiday swimming activities in the summer. If you hold ASA Royal Life Saving Society lifesaving certificate and would like to help, please contact Jo Churchyard 38071.

AGE CONCERN – MINIBUS DRIVERS WANTED FOR ONE MORNING PER FORTNIGHT OR MONTH TO KEEP THIS USEFUL SERVICE TO PENSIONERS ON THE ROAD. PLEASE CONTACT BASIL LAWRENCE 40544 or JOHN SCOTT 38216.

BANBURY DISTRICT CARERS THE CARERS CENTRE, ALEXANDRA HOUSE, CHURCH PASSAGE, BANBURY, is open to the public Mon, Wed, Thurs 10am-2pm, Sat 10am-1pm. Or ring 0295 264545 in weekday office hours. (Out of hours answering service.)

CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN revised draft is available for inspection in Deddington Library. If you have any comments or objections, make them direct to the District Council at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, by 26 February.

1993 INFOGUIDE FOR BANBURY AND DISTRICT
This interesting publication by the *Banbury Guardian* runs to 36 pages and is packed with information. There are sections on Advice Lines, Charities and Charity Shops, Education (including schools, adult, special needs), Family (including playgroups), Motoring, Political, Regimental, Services for Disabled People, Volunteer Groups needing volunteer helpers etc. As if that weren't enough, InfoGuide also carries a range of local advertisements, Copies, from the *Banbury Guardian* office, 7 North Bar, "may be 25p or may be free" - their own words, not ours - and well worth it.

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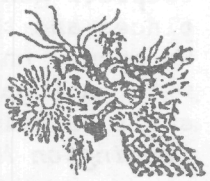

THE WAY WE WERE

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO by Buffy Heywood

I give below extracts from the diaries of the Rev Cotton Risley for the months of January and February 1843 - it certainly seems to have been worth doing a bit of beach-combing in those days! The next volume appears to have gone missing over the years and the diaries re-start in October 1843, so there will be a gap for the next 8 months [SHAME! - EDS].

14th JANUARY - I called on Flint, the schoolmaster of Adderbury, and delivered him the message from the Warden of New College and a notice as to his future reduction of stipend till he can procure testimonials of good conduct from the Curate of the Parish.

19TH JANUARY - We went, Susan and I and all the children, to a Dance and Supper at Mr Cotterell Dormer's of Rousham.

21ST JANUARY - The sum of money collected as fines from the different parties in Weights and Measures cases amounted to £95-7-6d.

10TH FEBRUARY - Our footman gave me notice to quit, not liking the confinement of his place. I had spoken to him however about the quantity of beer that had been drunk since he had been here, not 3 months - 5 hogsheads - he then gave me notice to leave. [1 HOGS HEAD = 52.5 gallons - EDS]

11TH FEBRUARY - Called at Fardon's, the constable's, about 2 tramps and ordered him to see them out of the town - they were insolent.

14TH FEBRUARY - Took Betsie to Brighton, we walked on the beach and she picked up a very good diamond which I begged to have as a memento of her, I had it cut into four smaller ones and polished. I picked up two beautiful pebbles, the best I had ever met, with madrapores, and a piece of Aqua Marine and pieces of Jasper.

18TH FEBRUARY - Mr Plowman of Oxford came and talked over making a plan for the re-pewing and restoring our Church (conditionally) in due course of time. I took Mr Plowman to see the interior of the cellar at the Plough public house.

27TH FEBRUARY - Was engaged in Assize Courts all day. Dined with the High Sheriff and a large party of brother magistrates at the Star Inn in the evening. The heaviest Assize known for very many years in both courts, upwards of 80 prisoners for trial, nearer 90 I believe.

NOT AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON by Fred Deely

A few years ago Mr Walker, who lived half way between North Aston and Deddington, 'phoned me and said "Would you like to go for a shoot at Mr Goff's farm at Duns Tew?" and he would meet me at the Turnpike Bridge at one o'clock, which we did. We proceeded to Mr Goff's and he told us where to go, so we started up a field with a big bank on the other side and bushes on this side. We had not got very far when my retriever put a rabbit out which I shot. Then after a few yards, looking down at us was Sir Robert Dashwood, a giant of a man, who said "Get off at once", but my friend said "Oh no, we have permission from Mr Goff", so he retired.

Just then some ducks settled in the stream below us and I said "Let's get a duck for Sunday" so we cut across the field and we were half way across when Sir Robert came through the hedge and said "You are on my land now not Mr Goff's" and with that he grabbed Walker's gun. He took our names and said to me "I want your gun as well". I said "You run for it!" and I took off, but holding two guns he couldn't make it. We went and told Mr Goff and he said "It will surely mean a summons because he is a Magistrate at Deddington Court" which was held every other week. (This is now the Library.)

For a week or two I was expecting a summons. But, before we parted at the Turnpike, Mr Walker said he would ask the Reverend Buckingham, the Wesleyan Minister who lived in Chapel Square, to write to Sir Robert and say we were sorry. After a fortnight my friend 'phoned me to say he had been to a Sale at Duns Tew and Sir Robert had seen him and said "Your gun is at the big House, you go and collect it." So for us it was not a pleasant 'shoot' all for one rabbit.

Mr Goff retired a few years later and came to live next to The Unicorn in the Market Place. One daughter married Eric Young, a farmer at Middle Barton, and is now retired. For a few years Eric was a member of Deddington Bowls Club.

PS An old saying in Deddington is that in the old days the Dashwoods owned nearly all the land between Duns Tew and Oxford.

ERNIE SHELDRAKE'S EUPHONIUM - by Bill Drake

Whatever you do, or do not, believe, carol singing is etched into the psyche. Last Christmas Eve, as we sang lustily in the cold foggy Market Place, I suddenly had one of those reversions common to encroaching senility and remembered old Ernie Sheldrake sixty years or so back on a similar night.
Ernie was one of the postmen in our small market town on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. He lived in a cottage on the south side of the Common near the well and had a red Post Office bike which was often propped against his gate. He was a roly poly man with a large handlebar moustache like Jimmy Edwards. He also had three medals from the Great War - Pip, Squeak & Wilfred - and a euphonium. When polished, it glowed like a pale watery sun behind high cirrus cloud. Ernie played his euphonium publicly twice yearly; first in summer on Hospital Sunday, with the Town Silver Band and second on Xmas Eve, for carol singing around the ornate horse trough in the market place. Ernie's pub was the Cardinal's Hat (The Cap to the locals) near the cattle market. It sold Bullards, the best of the local beers. Ernie liked his beer and we kids liked Ernie. It was probably four or five pints, and a not Silent Night, when the euphonium slipped and Ernie hollered with pain as one of the handlebars was trapped in a valve. We kids roared and the meeting broke up in confusion.
Believe what you will, folks, and don't be daunted by orthodoxy. I shall never know what Ernie believed.

DEDDINGTON MUSEUM - PROGRESS REPORT by Bill Hunt

The Feasibility Study in connection with Deddington Town Hall - which, among other items, dealt with what was required to enable a Museum to be housed in the Town Hall - was one of the items on the agenda for the Parish Meeting held on 13 January. Up to the time of preparing this report, the decision of the Parish Council has not been received. Although much of the work in connection with the museum is at a standstill pending this decision, we are still receiving items from parishioners.
Since I prepared the last report, Mrs Joan Fisher of Castle Lodge, Castle Street, has donated the metal helmet which was issued to her late father, Mr Maurice French, for use in his capacity as leader of that grand body of men who stood ready, day after day and night after night, to deal with the effects of incendiary attacks on the area. Fortunately they were not required to 'go into action' but it is pleasing that their existence will be remembered by this exhibit.
Mr John Plumbe of Chase Cottage, Earls Lane, has donated a photostat copy of a notice of sale of sheep, cattle and pigs conducted by Paxton & Holiday at Anyho Station on 18 May 1886. Over 300 animals were catalogued and some of the lots are described in terms which are no longer used. Perhaps some of our readers will enlighten us regarding the terms 'single couples' in relation to sheep, and 'sturks' in relation to cattle. [SOMEBODY IS SURE TO KNOW - EDS]
Mr Cyril Sykes, who recently moved from Hill House, Dane Hill to Lake House, Adderbury, has donated a wick-cutter, which was an important piece of equipment prior to the introduction of gas and electricity for lighting etc. Whilst quite a number of lamps from the pre-gas and electricity era are still in existence, it is doubtful whether many wick-cutters have survived. This one is in excellent condition.
Our grateful thanks are extended to Mrs Fisher and to Messrs Plumbe and Sykes.

THE GREAT BOWLER HAT MYSTERY

Last November we asked if any of our readers knew of documentary proof that a Mr Bowler once made hats in Deddington. We have had a lot of information and suggestions, and hope to publish a factual article in a future issue of *The News*.

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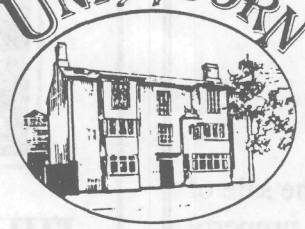

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CALLING ALL CLUBS - - - Part 1

DEDDINGTON PLAYERS

The Pantomime seems to have been enjoyed by one and all [OH, YES IT WAS! SEE REVIEW ON PAGE 7 - EDS], not least those behind the scenes and on the stage.
We shall be taking a rest for a while now, but keep an eye on the *The Deddington News* if you would like to be involved in some way next time, and don't forget that as well as actors up front, we need all sorts of skills behind the scenes. To be absolutely sure that you don't miss the next pantomime call, get in touch with us any time on 38153 so that we have your name on our list.
The theatre model-making workshop on 16 January was much enjoyed by the 19 children who attended. Commiserations to the 3 who were ill and couldn't come. If those who came work at school as they worked for Mr Hobbin they must be a joy to teach. Everybody went home with a completed theatre ready to play with, and some helpful tips about how to create lighting and sound effects and how to make special pieces of scenery, like a ship sailing on the ocean. We have some budding playwrights among us as a result: I overheard at least two excited conversations planning meetings to continue work on the projected play.

JEAN FLUX 38153

DEDDINGTON YOUTH CLUB

Just a few lines to keep everybody informed on the progress of the Club. The membership now stands at 70 with a regular attendance of around 40. Having established the Club and after a trial period, the leaders applied for a grant and were given £500 towards new equipment and games. On behalf of the Youth Club members and leaders, we thank Deddington Parish Council for their generosity.
The winter months complicate things somewhat, particularly when we are unable to use all the facilities and we are looking forward to the clocks changing in order to give us some extra daylight for outside activities.
The forthcoming temporary closure of the Windmill Centre will obviously make things more difficult and we, as a committee, are looking into alternative arrangements. We will notify everybody when we have some news. In the meantime we are planning a summer programme, including various inter-club competitions and visits to Spiceball, Grasshoppers and other Clubs. We would be very pleased to hear from any parents wishing to help in the running of the club. Most of the leaders are tied up with work commitments which make regular attendance at the club difficult. Additional helpers willing to go on a rota would help to relieve the situation.
If you have any interest in children's recreation and development and are slightly mad..... please contact Les Lane on 38900 or me.

TONY LOWE, CLUB SECRETARY 37108

DEDDINGTON GARDENERS

Spring starts here! On Thursday 4 March, Mary Spiller is coming to us again, this time to talk - with slides - about planning and planting the small garden. She will include some useful tips for planning "corners" of larger ones. This will be at the Town Hall, 7.30 for 7.45pm, admission £2 to include light refreshments. New members and guests are welcome. New membership cards will be ready for the March meeting; please pay and collect there or contact Joan Robins on 38210.
Mary's talk should be useful for prospective entrants to our "Best Front Garden" competition. Entry forms will be enclosed with the next *Deddington News*, judging will be in late June or early July by RHS judges and there will be valuable cash prizes.

ELIZABETH TOTHILL 38186

DEDDINGTON SINGERS

We are now looking ahead to Spring and choosing some delightful songs appropriate to that magical season. We practice on Monday evenings at 7.45pm, usually at the Holly Tree Club room. We sing mainly traditional music but with a few more members we could tackle something more adventurous.
We were invited to take part in providing light entertainment by the "British Theatre for the Disabled" whose Patron is Judi Dench, and we put on an afternoon session of songs and piano solos at the local Cheshire Home. We intend to do another afternoon for them this year.
If you would like to join our informal group, please ring Irene Reynolds on 38297 or me.

BETTY CAPORN 38402

CALLING ALL CLUBS - - - Part 2

DEDDDINGTON WI

We go back to the December meeting when we all enjoyed our Christmas party. This time it was an "all hands on deck" evening, and members were splendid in all contributing something to a very festive occasion. Some members cooked, some prepared the room, some did the dishes and cleared away, and we ended up with a varied and enjoyable meal. After that Jean Perree arranged some light hearted games and we ended the evening with carol singing to the direction and accompaniment of Betty Caporn. The Committee would like to thank everyone for making this such an enjoyable evening.

In January we had the Annual Mini Auction. The attendance was a bit thin, what with illnesses and other commitments, but the Auction was good fun and raised a nice sum of money. We thank everyone who brought along items for the sale and congratulate those who managed to get some really good bargains.

On 9 February, Banbury Museum are to give us a talk with a local flavour - Oxfordshire's Part in the Civil War. You are very welcome to come as a visitor to see who we are and what we do and, of course, to join us. For further details, please ring me. MARIANNE ELSLEY, PRESIDENT 38251

DEDDINGTON GUIDES

We kept busy in the Christmas holidays with seven guides joining other guides and brownies from all over Banbury for carol singing in the Castle Centre. Our brave seven sang 'Oh Christmas Tree' to a very big crowd and were loudly applauded. More singing: Emma Hodgkins and Helen Rose delighted residents and staff alike at the Christmas party in Wardington House when they sang two carols. Thank you to all our marvellous songsters.

The New Year began fairly typically with a meeting of Senior Guides, planning, airing and sharing and brushing up on leadership skills. We are following an international theme this half term - climaxing in our Thinking Day celebrations. We have already enjoyed learning songs, games and dances from all over the world and have discovered flags and countries that have guides or girl scouts that we didn't even know existed! Later this term we shall try on costumes from overseas and tast food from other lands. We are also planning a night hike week-end away and a summer camp, perhaps to Youlbury. **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** - Sun 21 March, Mothering Sunday 10.15am Parish Church MAGGIE RAMPLEY GUIDER 0295 810069

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We wish to draw the attention of all members to Thursday 4 March, at 8pm. This is the date of the Branch and Club Annual General meeting. We hope you will make every effort to attend, to express your views and exercise your democratic rights in choosing the Officers and Committee to take us forward into the future. Constructive ideas are always most welcome. ALEC BLAKEMAN 37155

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (DEDDINGTON U3A)

We started the year well with a most interesting and moving talk by Deddington's Marianne Elsley, which was enjoyed by all. She told us of her experiences in Nazi Germany and read us excerpts from her book "A Chance in Six Million". We were pleased to hear that copies are still obtainable and these are recommended to members who were unable to attend the talk.

On 17 February Mr Stevenson will tell us about a Vicar of Deddington of the 19th Century. We have three meetings in March: 3rd - Education in our Prisons by Rod Turner; 17th - a talk on Victim Support by John Neild; and 31st a talk called 'Tiptoe Through the Tulips' by Sheila Wood.

If you are a retired person you are very welcome to join the U3A. We meet every other Wednesday afternoon at the Windmill Centre. For more information please call Mary Ashbridge, the Membership Secretary on 0295 279865. JOAN WALKER 0295 253437.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE WINDMILL CENTRE

The main hall at the Windmill Centre will be closed from April-September 1993, and the rest of the building from July to September. This is part of the development programme (see PC report page 2).

CALLING ALL CLUBS - - - Part 3

DEDDINGTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

FIRST TEAM Two of the matches resulted in wins and they are in a mid-table position at present, with enough games in hand to climb the table. Stefan Hanley scored in his very first game for the 1st team.

THE RESERVES continue to find life difficult with one draw and three losses. They are bottom of the table but have high hopes of improvement.

RESULTS: FIRST TEAM

Wardington	(a) Won	1-0	S Hanley
H Norton Res	(a) Lost	1-5	G Smith (B Gregory Cup)
Chacombe	(a) Won	2-1	P Gibbs, S Cook (BG Cup)

RESERVES

Wroxton Res	(h) Drew	1-1	P Lewis
Bloxham A	(h) Lost	1-5	S Cook
Barford Res	(h) Lost	2-8	S Cook, M Simons, (*Angel Shield*)
Cropredy Res	(h) Lost	1-3	C Pearce (*Cave Cup*)

SUNDAY SIDE This team have maintained their splendid 100% winning heavy victories. Matthew Springall and Chris Hill are the top scorers with 29 and 21 respectively.

RESULTS:

Taverners	(h) Won	10-0	M Springall 5, C Doggett 2, D Churchill, I Skuce, C Hill
Red Star Irreg	(h) Won	11-0	M Springall 4, C Hill 3, D Churchill 2, K Mitchell, A Shepherd (*Norbar Shield*)
Hardwick Res	(a) Won	11-0	C Doggett 4, D Churchill 3, M Springall 3, I Skuce
Trades	(h) Drew	1-1	I Skuce in extra time with only 9 DTFC players (*John Wood Cup*)
Rylands	(a) Won	7-1	C Hill 2, G Pinfold 2, M Springall 2, I Skuce
Juniper	(h) Won	2-0	G Pinfold, C Hill (*Norbar Shield*)
Trades (Replay)	(a) Won	1-0	C Hill (*John Wood Cup*)

FORTHCOMING SUNDAY MATCHES all 10.30am kick-off
14 Feb Jolly Weavers (a), 21 Feb Rover Viking (h), 28 Feb Over Norton (a)
7 March Middleton Cheney (h)

STEVE PLUMBE 38512

PARISH COUNCIL continued from page 2

CEMETERY A letter from the Vicar confirmed that the whole cemetery had been consecrated by the Bishop of Dorchester in 1973. As far as the Church of England was concerned there was no reason why some deceased should be buried in one part and not another: there should be no separation or distinction.

VILLAGE APPRAISAL James Marmion, who had been acting as chair of the Appraisal Group following Dr Bill Mace's illness and subsequent death, had written on behalf of the group asking the PC to reaffirm its commitment to the project and appoint a councillor as chair. PC declined, suggesting that the group elects its own chair.

THE COUNCIL THEN WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER REPORTS ON THE FORMER CHURCH AT CLIFTON, ALLOTMENT LAND IN SATIN LANE, DEDDINGTON, AND THE POTATO FIELD ON THE HEMPTON ROAD.

NEXT MEETING will take place on Wednesday 17 February at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

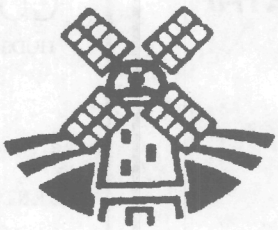
We remind our readers that the above notes, and those on page 2, are an editor's view of the meeting. The official minutes of Parish Council meetings are available for inspection in Deddington Library and also on noticeboards in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton.

APRIL DIARY

Sat 3 Craft Fayre, Deddington School
Sat 3 DEDDINGTON NEWS PUBLICATION DAY
Tue 27 COPY DATE FOR MAY DEDDINGTON NEWS

MAY DIARY

Sat 8 DEDDINGTON NEWS PUBLICATION DAY
Sat 15 British Legion: Race Night in aid of Blenheim Road Centre



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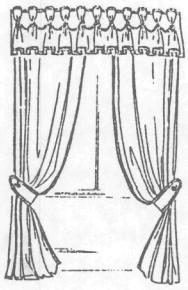

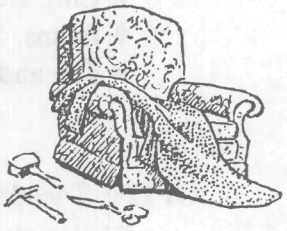

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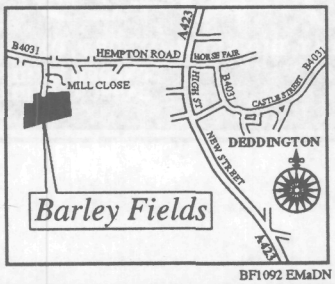

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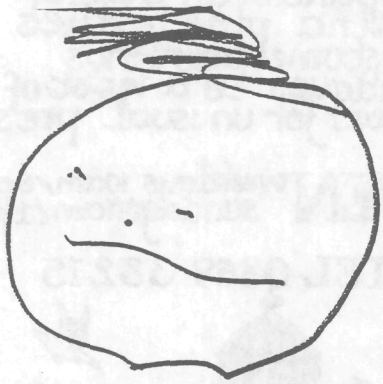

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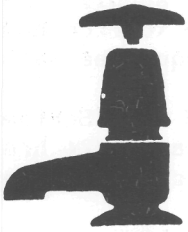

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